

For more information about Missinaibi Provincial Park or the remainder of the river canoe route "Missinaibi Provincial Park Canoe Route: Missinaibi to Mattice" contact:

Ontario Parks  
Ministry of Natural Resources  
190 Cherry Street  
Chapleau ON  
P0M 1K0  
Telephone: (705) 864-1710  
Fax: (705) 864-0681

Comments are welcome. Please send them to **Ontario Parks** at the address noted above.

## A Word about Canoe Route Maintenance

Canoe route maintenance cannot be guaranteed. For this reason we would greatly appreciate your co-operation in keeping this route litter free. Please carry out all non-burnable garbage and practice no-trace camping. Please inform us of any condition that requires attention such as poor or missing signs, blowdowns or garbage accumulations.

## CAUTION

The information contained in this guide was accurate at time of publication. Conditions on the river are subject to change and may differ from those described in the guide. Measurements are in metric: 1000 m (metres = 1 km (kilometre) = 0.64 mile.

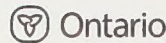
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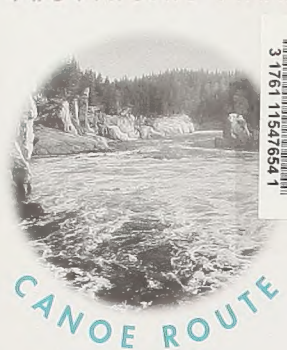


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Missinaibi  
PROVINCIAL PARK



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Mattice to Moosonee



Moose

## Trip Distances

Mattice to Thunder House Falls	56 km
Thunder House Falls to Opasatika River	94 km
Opasatika River to Moose River Crossing	100 km
Moose River Crossing to Moosonee	72 km

## Train Service

A scheduled passenger/freight train travels from Moosonee to Cochrane. Information about pickup, fares and schedules are available from:

By mail: Ontario Northland  
555 Oak Street East  
North Bay ON  
P1B 8L3

By Telephone: Ontario Northland Station  
Cochrane ON  
(705) 272-4228

## Maps Required

The following Provincial Series maps may be obtained from local distributors or from:

Natural Resources Information Centre  
900 Bay Street  
Toronto ON M7A 2C1  
1-800-363-3730 (General Inquiries)  
(416) 314-2000 (Map Information)

Hearst	42G/NW	1:100,000
Thunder House Falls	42J/SW	1:100,000

Smoky Falls	42J/SE	1:100,000
Schlievert Lakes	42J/NE	1:100,000
Blacksmith Rapids	42J/NW	1:126,720
Moosonee	42P/SE	1:100,000

Aerial photographs may also be purchased from the Information Centre.

The following topographic maps (1:50,000) are available by contacting Canada Maps Office, 1-800-465-6277 or a local map distributor:

Mattice	42G/11	1:50,000
Shannon Lake	42G/14	1:50,000
Thunder house Falls	42J/3	1:50,000
Friday Creek	42J/2	1:50,000
Soweska River	42J/7	1:50,000
Wawa Lakes	42J/8	1:50,000
McCaig Creek	42J/9	1:50,000
Pickett Creek	42J/12	1:50,000
Onakawana	42J/11	1:50,000
Moose River	42J/14	1:50,000
Cheepish River	42P/3	1:50,000
Bushy Island	42P/2	1:50,000
Moosonee	42P/17	1:50,000

## Planning

Travel on the Missinaibi River is through a remote and unpopulated area. Pack enough gear and provisions to get you through the entire trip. Make a checklist to make sure nothing essential is left behind, but at the same time keep weight to a minimum, since all equipment must be portaged. General provisions and meals can be purchased in Mattice and Moosonee. Avoid metal cans and glass containers.

## Missinaibi Provincial Park

Canoe Route  
Mattice to Moosonee

7-9 days / 322 km / 7 portages

## General Information

The Missinaibi River is the longest protected, unimpeded wilderness waterway in northeastern Ontario. It offers canoeists challenging white water, incredible scenery, and abundant wildlife, all in a remote setting. Flowing unchecked from the height of land near Chapleau, this magnificent river flows northward from Missinaibi Lake 532 kilometres to the Moose River and finally to James Bay. The drop in elevation is 390 metres. With the Michipicoten River to the south, and the Moose to the north, the Missinaibi provides the shortest water link between the Great Lakes and James Bay. Historically, it was an important trade and communications route and today, a valuable recreational waterway. Please respect all historic or native cultural sites.

The Missinaibi is a remote and challenging river. It is recommended for experienced canoeists.

## Portages and Rapids

The degree of difficulty of the more than 75 rapids along the length of Missinaibi varies with water levels. Rapids having "no portage" should be carefully inspected before being run or lined. From mid-July through August, low water conditions may be encountered which may make it necessary to wade through certain sections.

## Emergency Services

The Missinaibi River is remote and generally inaccessible to all but canoes and aircraft. Once on the river, opportunities for communication are limited. Trip planning must include notifying someone about expected travel times and

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## Park Permits

Check with **Ontario Parks** to obtain current information on permit requirements or fire conditions.

## Water Levels

Since the Missinaibi flows unimpeded, water levels are subject to seasonal fluctuations. Typically, water levels decrease throughout the summer but may increase quickly by a heavy rain storm.



Canoes in rapids

## Weather

You can expect long daylight hours, heat and low humidity during the summer but this area can experience extreme and rapid changes in weather conditions. Temperature and precipitation extremes are most likely during spring and fall.

## Garbage and Waste material

Do not bury any garbage. Burn all refuse and carry out non-burnable items (for example, plastic or aluminum foil packaging). Cans, if used, should be burned to remove all food traces, flattened and then carried out. Avoid glass containers and practice no-trace camping.

Use pit privies where established, otherwise bury all human waste materials well back from the tent area and shoreline. Greywater should be dumped and buried well back from the shore.

what steps to take if you are late. This responsible person should know the date and place of your departure, your trip route and the date and location of your exit. Telephone services are available at Mattice and Moosonee. Canoeists should verify that all maps, guides, and other river information are current.

The Ontario Provincial Police are responsible for search and rescue. Those seeking information about overdue canoeists should contact the OPP detachment nearest their destination or call 1-800-661-6777.

## Other Services

For the latest information about services - train schedules, outfitters, tours, shuttle services and more, contact the **Ontario Parks** office in Chapleau.

## Access

This section of the route begins at the town of Mattice, on Highway 11. Access to the river is from a municipal park on the east side of the river. Meals, supplies and accommodations are available in Mattice.

## Route Description - Mattice to Moosonee

Thunder House Falls, Conjuring House and Hell's Gate Canyon are highlights of this section of the river. At Bell's Bay, the river makes a wide bend from a northerly to a northeasterly direction. It cuts through 6 to 12 metres of glacial deposits that form unconsolidated sandy cliffs. Further downstream, older deposits of silica rich sand are exposed at the river level. Shallow gravel beds with smooth water will be encountered during low water conditions, whereas the water may be deeper with large swells in the main channel.

Be very careful when approaching Thunder House Falls. Keep to the left shore and watch for the portage.

Along the river there are numerous cultural and natural heritage sites. The river was once an inland trade route for the

## Insects

Biting insects are present throughout the summer. Blackflies are most abundant in June, and bite during daylight. Mosquitoes persist throughout the summer and are most numerous at dusk, but bite anytime of day. Insect repellent and protective clothing are recommended.

## Firewood and Campfires

Wood fires are allowed, however, gas or naphtha stoves are preferable and more convenient. Build your fire on bare rock or mineral soil with a five metre diameter area completely cleared of flammable materials. Never leave your fire unattended, and make sure it is dead out before continuing your trip. Use established fire pits if present.

Check with **Ontario Parks** about fire conditions before starting your trip. Under Ontario law, the costs of extinguishing forest fires can be charged directly to those responsible for causing them.

## Drinking Water

Drinking water should be filtered, boiled or chemically treated. While the water is not polluted, there may be natural organisms (giardia) present that could cause illness. Special filters or water treatment pills are available at most outdoor stores.

## Campsites

Use established campsites wherever possible. Sites are marked on the map. Campground facilities are available at Mattice (at the municipal campground) and Tidewater Provincial Park at Moosonee.

## Fishing

Walleye, northern pike, sturgeon, and whitefish are commonly found in the Missinaibi River. Brook trout can be caught in some of the river tributaries. Obtain a current copy of **Ontario Fishing Regulations Summary** regarding open seasons, catch limits and licences required.

Hudson's Bay Company. The company and its servants have left their mark along the river. The most notable of these are the grave sites and headstones of those who perished making their living here. Please respect these memorials and do not remove any materials from the sites.

Travel along the Missinaibi River provides excellent opportunities for wildlife viewing. Observe the influence that the harsh northern climate has on this area's vegetation. As an example, the island just upstream from the Opasatika River is noted for its white spruce trees. Marks on the trees are made by ice that is pushed up to great heights during spring breakup.

You may end your journey at Moose River Crossing or continue by river another 72 km to Moosonee and Moose Factory. You can catch the train back to Cochrane at Moose River Crossing or from Moosonee.

The Moose River is influenced by the James Bay tides up to the North French River, 32 km from its mouth. At Moosonee, the river has a normal tidal variation of 1.5 metres. Currents and winds frequently combine to make canoeing across the wide Moose River hazardous.

Trips beyond Moosonee by canoe are not recommended due to ocean tides, swift currents and strong headwinds.

Transport by freighter canoe is available at Moosonee for local trips to Moose Factory or down river to salt water at Ship Sands Island.

The return trip to Cochrane is usually by train.



Thunder House Falls

## Firearms

No firearms may be carried without a valid Ontario hunting licence. No licence is valid in Ontario during July and August.

## Black bears

A variety of animals inhabit this area including moose, wolf, beaver and lynx. The black bear can be the greatest hazard. Keep your campsite odourless and garbage-free to avoid attracting animals. Hoist food into a tree well away from tents and at least three metres off the ground. Black bears are unpredictable and can inflict serious injury. If confronted by a bear, do not attempt to attract or frighten it. Remain in an upright position. Do not panic. Back off and give it the right-of-way. If you see bear cubs, do not approach them: their mother will be close by. If fresh tracks, digging, or bear scats are found, be cautious.

## Safety

Where there are no obvious portages, rapids should be scouted before running or lining canoes. Canoes should have life jackets or personal flotation devices (PFD), a spare paddle, a bailing can, and a signalling device. In rough, windy, or cold weather, canoeists should stay on or near the shore. Medical aid usually will be far away - ensure you have a first aid kit adequate for your party.



Long Rapids

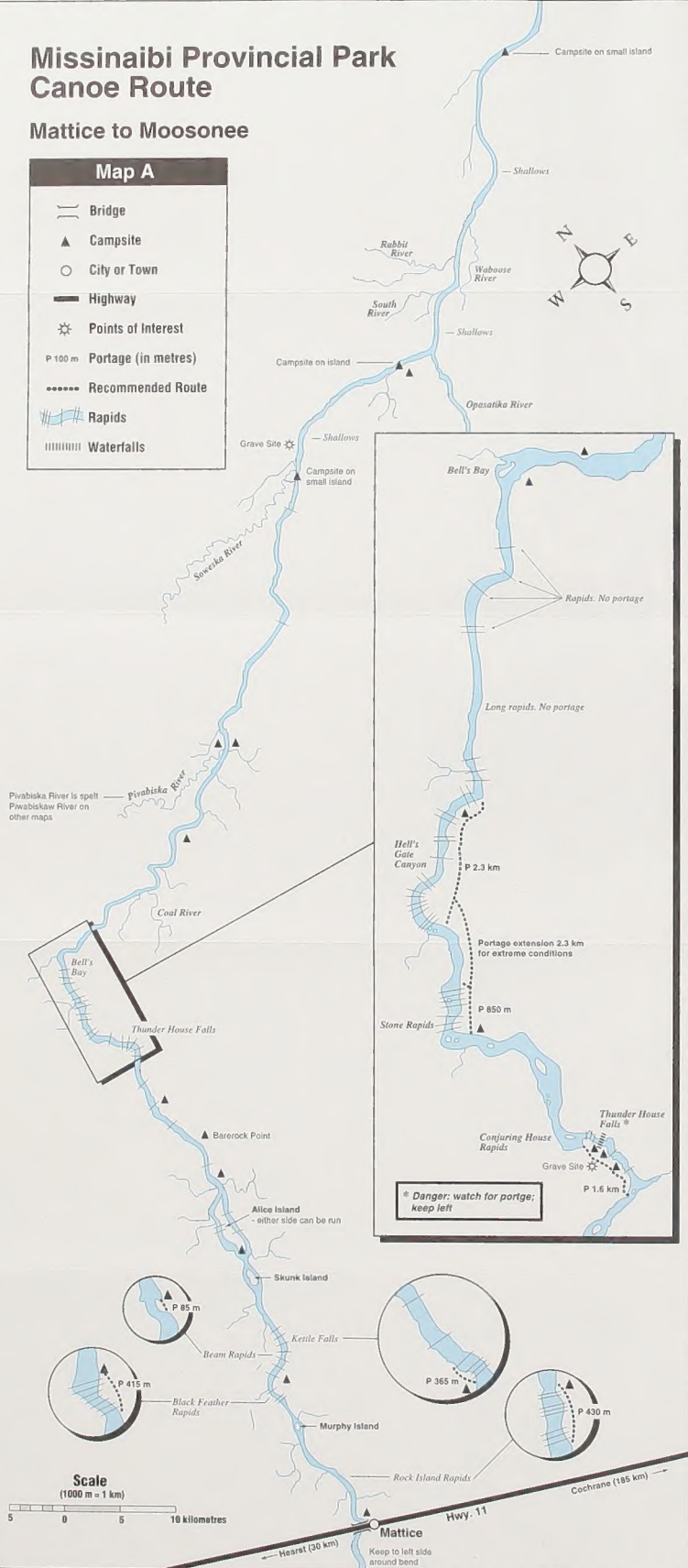


# Missinaibi Provincial Park Canoe Route

## Mattice to Moosonee

Map A

- Bridge
- Campsite
- City or Town
- Highway
- Points of Interest
- Portage (in metres)
- Recommended Route
- Rapids
- Waterfalls



Map B

- Bridge
- Campsite
- City or Town
- First Aid Station
- Points of Interest
- Portage (in metres)
- Railroad
- Recommended Route
- Rapids

